



Vizuna

6 Bonds of Love

Explicit
Content:
Parental
Advisory



Story and Art by Kazuma Kodaka



Story so Far...

RANMARU SAMEJIMA and KEI ENJOJOI have been inseparable lovers since college. Ranmaru is a former kendo champion, while Kei has turned his back on his family, which runs a criminal yakuza empire. Together, they found happiness, except for the occasions when Kei's half brother, KAI SAGANO, showed up to wreak havoc with his repeated attempts to seduce Ron and otherwise cause general mischief.

After many adventures (and romantic calamities), Kei decided to propose the unthinkable: to ask Ranmaru to marry him! After weeks of planning, Kei was ready to pop the question. All that remained was for him to journey to Shinjuku to pick up the rings he'd ordered. However, while gazing out the store window, Kei noticed his half-brother selling drugs on the street corner! Kei ran out of the store and gave chase, but was soon overpowered by a gang of thugs who took him prisoner.



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Why did I
take up this
sword...

トクン!
トクン!
トクン!



Because
he hurt
someone.

To kill
this man,
but why...



Something I can't
live without!!



Here what
is most
precious
to me!

トクン!
トクン!
トクン!

KEEP IN
絆

Little did Kei know that he'd stumbled into a huge conspiracy against his Yakuza family, masterminded by their archrival, the murderous Mr. KOGA, who has used a Kai-lookalike to sell drugs on the street so the police will come down hard on the Sagano family. It was this lookalike that Kei saw.

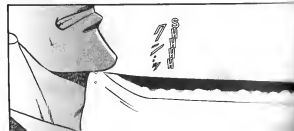
Meanwhile, Ranmaru was sick with worry over his missing lover. With nowhere else to turn, he asked Kai for help. Kai agreed, and tried to enlist the aid of his bodyguard, MASANORI ARAKI. Masa refused, and Kai vowed to rescue Kei on his own. Realizing that he may have erred, Masa called upon his sometimes hitman, sometimes bodyguard TASHIRO for help. Before long, all parties had converged on Koga's hideout, and Tashiro was shocked to learn that the man who taught him the skills of killing, the enigmatic Mr. J.B., was working with Koga. Tashiro doubted if his skills are up to the challenge against his mentor, but there was no time for second thoughts, as Koga's men formed a deadly stand off around the now captured Ranmaru and Kai!

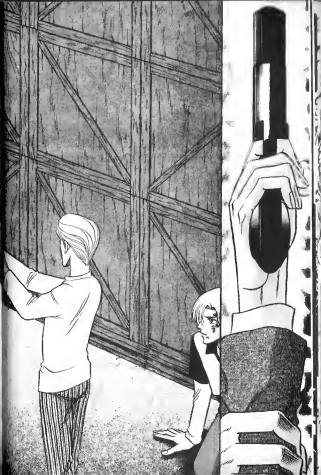
Which leads us to the latest chapter of our story...





RIZELIA
RIZELIA







.....



Masa ...?



Do as
Araki
says.



It's all right.
Sweep back
Ranmaru.



It's all
right.



Pull back,
Samejima.



Do you
intend to
dirty your
sword with
this man's
blood?

He's
not even
worth
killing.



It seems like you've done a lot to these people.

Seems to me that a little payback is in order... before I take care of you properly.







*Of course...
this is
how it is.*



*I told
him to
just think
about his
work...*

*I told
him that
I didn't
need him
to coddle
me...*



*...But...
but at
least I...*

*Sorry
for the...
trouble.*



*An
ambulance
will be
here soon.*



*I'm still just a
burden to him.*



*I still
depend
on him.*

*I
told
him
that,
but*



*I still have
work to
do here.*

*You should
go to the
hospital
with your
friends.*



Sir!

Boss!

Shut up!! If
you make a
move I'll blow
his head off!!



Masaki!



Calm
down, it's
over.

We're
pulling
out.

Boss!
Kail!

Are you
all right?!



It's just
beginning,
isn't it
Araki?

Over
...?



Tachiro,
don't
move.



Tachiro
...?



Yeah...die
noisy fly
behind me
ought to
back down,
too.

I'll be
killing him
next.



None of
yours have
died yet.

That hardly
seems fair,
does it?

My side's
the only
one with
casualties.





*You always
get hurt
because of
me...*

*It's
always
my
fault...*



*I'm
sick of it*



Kai!



Kai...!



*I don't
want to
watch*

...you die!!



*When you
might die?*

*Why are
you smiling?*



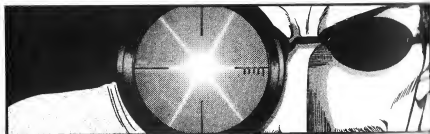
*I've
never
done
anything
for you.*

*And for
what?
Why...?
All I do is
cause
trouble.*



*You worked
ridiculously
hard to save
me...*

*You
always
smiled
and told
me
everything
would be
all right.*



*I'll
protect
you.*



*Don't suffer
anymore.*



*Don't get hurt
because of me.*

This time...

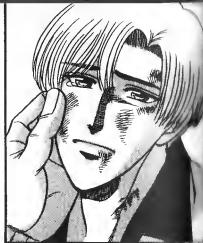








ヘッ
フ
ッ...



You look
like hell!
You sure
you're not
hurt...?



...Kal...

Why did
you jump
out like
that?



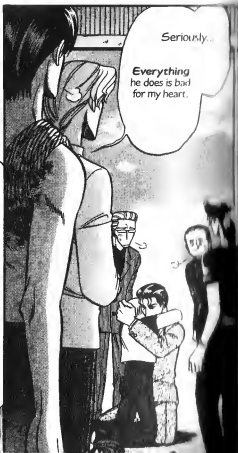
Enjyoo!

I'm
fainting!



I'll be
leaving
now.

Police
and I don't
really get
along,
y'know?



Seriously...

Everything
he does is bad
for my heart.

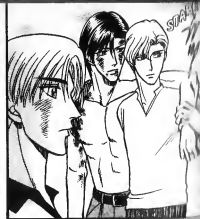
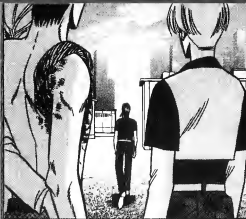


You
really
are...

...much
too
reckless.



You
just took
years off
my life.



My pleasure.

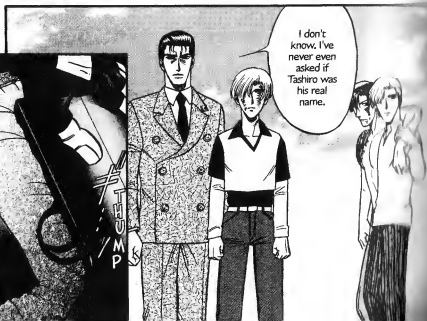
It was fun while it lasted, no?



Tashiro... Thank you...for everything.



Where's Tashiro from, anyway? His last name is Japanese, but...



I don't know, I've never even asked if Tashiro was his real name.



Will I...ever see you again?



You'd better hope not.

I'm an Angel of Death, after all.



Tashiro!



Ah, I can finally go home.



...Yes...



Why? You look fine to me.

Oh, yeah.

First, the hospital.

Now I remember. My head's a little cloudy.

You're a hypochondriac!



Sorry, sorry.

Do you know how worried I was...?



Don't get worked up when you're injured, you idiot!

What? Why're you being so bratty!!



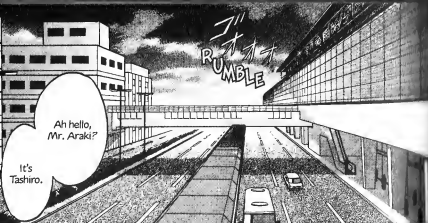
He was a great bodyguard.



He's not an Angel of Death.

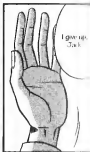


I wanted to tell him...





Did you come to get revenge for me killing your client?



I give up, Jack.



Do I have time for a last request?

I see. Well, I won't delay you then.



Sigh. What is it?



...Do you regret not having killed me before?

That's right. I should have done this a long time ago.



You've mistaken me for someone else.



Finished saying goodbye?

How nice.



Tishiro...



Karstein...



Of course I'm not... Roy...





I'll believe
you... Jack.

If we
can be
together
until we
die...





Oh.

Thank
you very
much.

I don't know if
you'll be able to get
all the blood out,
but here it is.

Oh,
and
here's
this.



Work
them hard,
Samejima!
And get some
rest, yourself!

I'm sure everyone
from the Sagano is
going to come see
how he's doing.



It's nothing.
Goodbye, and
take care.

Thank you
very much.

Ah, good.
Call me if
you need
anything,
okay?

Once his
condition
stabilizes,
I'll be
returning
home.



Eh?
or we've
already
served so
many...

Oh, this
is from
Araki and
the Sagano
Clin.



Yes, he
really is.



They all
and they're
from
Sagano...

TA-DA
ズラ

Huh?



Thanks for the
thought, anyway.

I was
too late...
Damn.







Good luck charm?

Ah...no, this is... kind of a good luck charm.



Oh my...

Are you married, Mr. Enryoku?



Hey! Stop! Ow ow ow!!

What are you talking about? Let me see!



No!! It's just not the right time!

Come on! After all I've done for you! Lemme see!



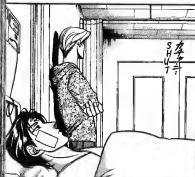
...?

Yes, nurse! Me, too!

I wonder what kind of shops you'd be in without it?



SLAM
Please be quiet, this is a hospital!!



SHUT!



Keep quiet and don't make such a fuss!

Yes! We're sorry!

Take care, now



Now, stay still while I check your blood pressure.



You're certainly more energetic.

You'll heal quickly!



All right,
all right!
I'm
sorry!



I'm tired
of it.



Take more
responsi-
bility for
your a-level!

Do you
know how
many people
suffered for you?!



Kel...

I'm always
at a dis-
advantage.



I do
listen.

You
never
listen to me.



I'm always
the one
worrying
while you
fool around.



If you're so
tired of our
relationship,
then let's
break up!

I'll
leave the
apartment!
I'll go to
Osaka and
be Kel
Sagano!
Just watch
me!



Then let's
quit it!

It's
your's!



All
right.

I get it.

Then
why are
you in the
hospital?!

This is
proof
enough
you didn't
listen!

It's not
all right?!





Why?

Close
your
eyes and
gimme
your left
hand.

Just
do it.



C'm
yeah, I
almost
forgot.



I
really
hate
you...



Yeah,
yeah.

I hate
you...



...!?

Don't
open your
eyes yet.



Does it
fit? Let
me see.

.....

Ah!
Hey, I
told you
not to
look.

Enjoy!
what is
this?



I'm sorry!



You do this
again...
I'm breaking
up with you!

Yeah.

...You
idiot...



...!





That's the...

Most awful proposal...



Enjoy!



Hey, I'm begging *Marry* me.



Sorry.

I've never heard!



I did take a few blows to the head.

Well, I planned a lot of lines, but they got all mixed up.

That was it? That's how you propose?



Two men... can't get married...



Hey, I'm being serious here!

You could use a few more.



So just say yes.

If you don't, I'll be a bachelor forever.

Well, maybe not legally...

But I'm not gonna marry anyone but you.





I was
only
away
from him
for a
while...



But
when he
kisses
me like
that...



Idiot, it's
not any
different
than
before...



TUG



Mmm



FWOMP

Mmm
?



Is it so
wrong for
a married
couple to
spend the
night
together?

Someone'll
see! Let go!

This is a
hospital!

I know you
don't mean
that!



Hey wait!
The kiss is
supposed to
be light!
Light!!

Dummy,
we're gonna
be married.
This is
practice!







It's all right.



I don't mind...

If...you say so...



You don't like it?

No...

It's not that, I'm still woozy, is all.



Man, he's so good! ...I'm gonna...!!

THOZY
THOZY



Wow...



By all means!

Please... continue.



SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE
ぶる ぶる ぶる

What's wrong? Is it... bad?



It's a two-bit anniversary!

This is my lucky day! Just married and now Ron is servicing me!



Time out...

Ron... I'm really glad, but...



7 WAYER

Uh oh, my vision is swimming...





Has Masa gone back to Osaka already?

It was just a few scratches, nothing serious.

We've been worried. How are you doing?

No, he's still at the hotel.



He didn't say anything, like usual.

About the hotel...

Didn't the boss tell you himself?



Eh?

Which hotel is he staying at...?

Oh.

Strange place to be at hotel so small.



What... How'd you know?

Sorry for intruding.



You've been doing something dirty...

It's written all over your face.



That's my line.

Don't ever let me see you again !!



Toshi.

Sir!



Don't...



It's so
relax.

Geez,
talking to
the police is
so annoying.

They ask
the same
things over
and over.

We
might as
well play
along with
them for
the time
being.



And it's our
job to make
sure that's all
the information
they get.

You're
quite
right.



We'll all
be leaving
without
a guide.



I know
he's busy...I
won't bother
him for long.

I haven't
apologized
to him
properly.



Yes.

So will
you tell
me?

I want to
talk to him.





I like to
be with
Yusa.



Kyousuke...
can you
leave us
alone for
a while?



No
thanks,
I'm not
thirsty.



What
tension, I
hope they'll
be okay...



Oh, I'm in
the way,
aren't I?

I'll go
back to
my room.
Call if
you need
me.



It's all right.

Sorry, I know you're busy...



Ha?

Yes, what did you want to talk about?



I'm... really sorry. I've been thinking.

Um, I didn't really apologize for what happened.



I'm really... sorry.

Shout it me. He m...



And this time...for the organization...

Say something, Mas...



I always end up causing trouble for you.

Damn it...



His large hands... It's so nostalgic it makes my chest hurt.

His downcast eyes, the scar over his eyebrow

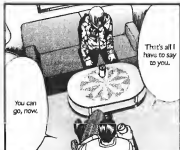


I haven't really looked at him in a while. We didn't see each other for three months.



If you understand that...

As the son
head of the
organization, I
can't sacrifice
their lives as
easily.



You can
go, now.

That's all
I have to say
to you.



I'm very
sorry!
I'll do
as you
say
from
now
on!



Perhaps...
Next time
you want
engage in
such selfish
action.



Huh...?



So...You feel
that however
reckless you
behave that a
simple
apology will
make things
right?



We think of
it as our most
important
duty.

To your
father...and our
organization...
you are a precious
treasure. I've
devoted my life
to protecting you
since you were
born.



They're
just human
shields to
you...
They can
die a
dog's
death for
all you
care.



When you're
in danger,
thousands
of men put
their lives on
the line for
you.
But you
don't even
acknowl-
edge them.





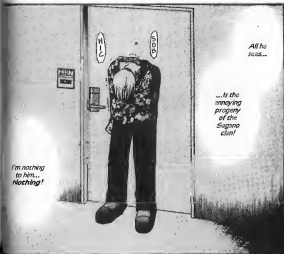
Uhh...

I'm
nothing
to him.



It's over...

...ah
...



All he
feels...

...is the
annoying
progeny
of the
Sagano
clan!

I'm nothing
to him...
Nothing!



That bastard
Kenny
couldn't be
in a cold
sweat by
now.



!!



Yeah! You
need to be
smart to
survive
these days.

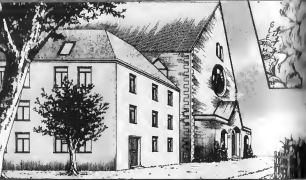
Blown
out the
smoke.



GUN&HEAVEN

kazuma
kodaka
presents





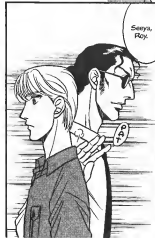
Oh...



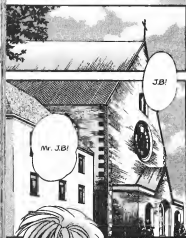
Mr. J.B!
You're here.
If I'd known...

But please,
continue
your prayers













Roy
Karstein-
Tashiro.



I want to
see them
again.

That's why
I offered to
help with the church.



...Jack
Birnbaum
Neeson.



Sure.

Can I
call you
Jack?



That's my
name. What
about you?
Tell me.



What do
you know
about fun?

Hey Mister,
aren't
afternoons
like this fun?

I know
lots...After
all, I'm
twenty!



I'm really
twenty.
People say I
don't look my
age... Maybe
'cause I'm half
Japanese.

I thought
you'd say
that.

Are you
joking?



When he
passed away,
Father Meilband
bought it from
me...though she
didn't need to.

My
grandpa was
Japanese...
He raised
me, but he's
dead now...

This land the
church is built
on was his.



Nothing
you could
comprehend.



Hm...not
exactly.

Is this
interrogation
on behalf of
your church?



You're
just full of
questions.

Can I
ask you
something,
Jack?

Just
'cause
you're
so
secretive.



Wah!?

I'm not
stupid, I



...More
about you,
Jack.

I just want
to know...



Oh!
You
made me
a flower
crown?

Michiko!

Don't
scattle me
like that!



What you
do for a
living?

Sry, for
insane...



Someone broke into her house, and killed her parents in front of her.

The shock did that to her.



Michelle is unable to talk.



Hey!

I said no!



Forget it, girl, it wouldn't suit me.

Do you have one for him?



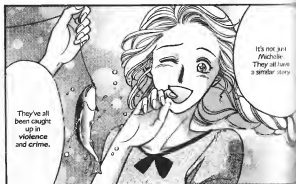
When she turned nineteen, she finally got her smile back, and now she laughs like an angel.

When she came to the church, she won her an empty shell.



You didn't need to say it.

You're right...It doesn't suit you.



It's not just Michelle. They all have a similar story.

They've all been caught up in violence and crime.



They're calling you. Go play.

Michelle! Come on!





You're embarrassing yourselves. Get out of here.



Jack ...

Awright, let go! That hurts!



Ah! Over!



Come play with us.



Hey Michelle, it's been a while. You're looking mighty fine!



Heh...



YOU SHOULD LEARN SOME MANNER



Shut up, old man!!



Not the right move, Roy.



Keep your dirty hands off her!









I'm a weak, filthy, awful man. I have nothing worth teaching you.



I'm dirty. I live on a day-making peninsula.

Being with you would help me forget my sins, if only a little.



You were brave enough.

It's my fault for being powerless... I wanted to take care of them, too!



Sorry for overdoing it.

Jack!

That's not it!



No! I want to be stronger! I want to be strong enough to protect them! I've seen you in action, Jack. I know you're different!

You saved Michelle. I just made it worse.



I'm not strong at all.



Please teach me, Jack.

I want to be strong... like you!



Now hurry back, Michelle's waiting for you.



Jack...

Jack!

Ah! Jack! Wait, I'm not...



Uhh...

I hate church brats.

Enough to kill 'em.



Eee!

CAN'T STAND 'EM!



How brave of you. Take care on your way home.

Uhh, thank you!

That's right! I'll protect her!

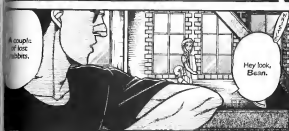
Oh Danny, you're Michelle's knight today?



R... Run...



AC... MICHELLE...



A couple of lost rabbits.

Hey look, Bean.



Ha ha ha! Run, run!



Hey Bean! Forget him—it's a rabbit hunt!

HUH?



Don't come any closer! Go away!

We owe you from the other day.

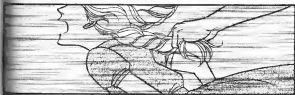
These church kids are atrocious little things...



Yo!

Ah!









Seeing you
would be
especially
hard for her
now. Let's
go outside.



She's
finally
asleep.

SHH

HOW
TO
SLEEP



ROY...
DON'T
LOOK
AT ME.

No...



...N...



You can't be
serious!!

Calm
down, Roy.
We'll take
her to the
hospital...

What
Michelle
needs is to
calm down.
The police
will only hurt
her more.

No.

THE POLICE



No!!

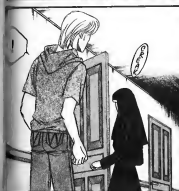


Shouting isn't
going to help
anything! If
you really
care about
Michelle, you
must think
rationally!



That'll
take
too long!

Once
she
calm down...



SHH





Do you
remember
their
face?



It's not
your nose
that's
throbbing.

I hate
the rain. It's
making my
nose throb.



Who'd
think
you'd
actually
want a
dick to
take?



I just
wish she
would've
screamed
more.



Could
you tell?
Virgins
really are
the best

She was
ninthteen
and
clean, no
doubt.



Wait,
Roy! Don't
rush into
anything!



If we
don't act
now, we'll
never be
able to
settle
anything!



Considering
and praying
won't bring
back
Michale's
pride!



The men
that hurt
Michale...



Danny.



Dear
God...





Why'd
you hit
me?"



I'm
imagining
things.



Only way
to clean it
off is to get
your hands
bloodier.

An angel
like you
shouldn't
have to see
that kind
of Hell



Waiting
for
"white,"
Roy.

And the
whiter you
are, the
deeper the
blood stains.











"You're interested in hiring me?"



"Jack, huh?"

"I don't suppose, Roy..."

"I'm good at it too. And expensive."



"A while ago...you asked me about my work."



"I'll pay! I'll work the rest of my life to pay you back!"

"And you'll repay me how...?"



"Teach me what you know."

"And I'll kill them myself!"



"People, especially."

"I take care of things."



"That's right."



"You take money... for killing... people...?"





All I've taught you is how to use this

Don't get ahead of yourself!



Jack!





I'm not desperate enough to put my hands to a virgin



Then find someone your own age to flirt with, you dirty old man!!



Just don't let curiosity get the better of you.



Because you'll be too worn out to even lift a gun.





Nn!



And then
I worry
about the
girl!

In addition
to teaching
me guns...
teach me to
kiss!



Mm...



I want you
to teach me!
Are you
going to
make me
embarrass
myself?!

Lord knows
there's plenty
in this town

Pick up a
streetwalker.
I'm sure she'll
be happy to
help you.



Nnn!

Whit...
Nnn...



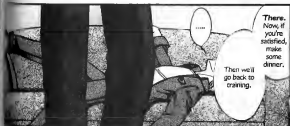
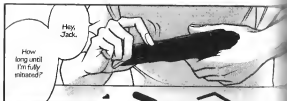
Oh,
Jack



Enough
yammering
already!



You're an
adult...
you should
know how
to...







I'll finish
it myself.



I won't
ask for
anyone
else's
help.



If you do,
I might just
take your
head off.



Thanks for
nothing, Jack.
You'd better
not come back
to this church.



!?

Wait,
wait!
Don't
shoot!



Jesus...

The angel
became a
devil.



S
L
A
M



Cut it out, Roy! Why would you wanna kill us!?



Huh!? Me, too!?

Do it!

Be it and Jim! You both face the wall, hands behind you!



What the hell's going...



This is revenge for Michelle.



Have you committed so many crimes you don't remember?



I've come to punish you for your sins.



H...Hey, it's Roy. What is this?



Don't lie to Roy! Jim's the one that did it!

You suck, Benn! You raped her, too!

Hey wait! Jim was the one who raped her!



Now !!

Don't move! Everyone on the floor with your hands on your head!





Looks like the cables are burned, Roy.







Wish
the
blood
off.

I'll take
care of
your
shirt.



Huh...

Huh...



Jack...
there's
tho's
so much
blood



We
weren't
followed.



Did you
mean to
keep me
out of it
all
along?
Huh?

Why did you
go alone?
You knew
you couldn't
do it alone!



Gah...
Gah...
Gah...



Come
here.

Don't
leave me!
Don't leave
me alone!

I can't
babysit any
longer. This
is what I get
for showing
a little
compassion.

Wait...
Wait!
Take me
with you...

I can't stay
here any
longer. I'm
leaving
DOWN

Please,
Jack. I
won't mess
up again! I
promise!

If you
leave, I
might as
well be
alone!

You're still
alone. Go
back to the
church.

Jack! I
really do—

No!!

I'll work
hard! I
won't get
in your
way!

No



No...
I...I...



Jack!?



You
shouldn't
have to
shoot, Roy.
Noc's kind
feels like
you.

You
shouldn't
have to
kill...





Hah...



After everything, you won't let me hear your voice? Grab the sheets or something.

B... but...

Don't bite your finger's. You'll hurt yourself



PUNCH
ZU!

AA!

Ja
di



Your whites wings... are gonna turn black.



I'm not an angel...



I don't have wings.

*A pure,
chaste
angel*



*My
blood
stained
hands are
violating
the body
of an
angel*



*His own white
wings tremble
as he falls
—into me.*



*Once of having
his wings
ripped change
to hot, sweet
gasp...*



*It makes
me feel like
I'm committing
a sin*



*His voice
gradually swells
and spills over,*



*His softly
blushed,
glistening skin
is almost
dizzying.*

*They linger
on the white sheets,
his captivated
pale lips*

*I've converted
many one but
they're nothing
compared to this*

*I've
desecrated
an angel.*



*The more I
can see white
feathers
fading away*

*The more
his body
is swept
along...*





Hoy!
Watch
where
you're
going!



In my life
of walking
from one
draft to
another...



HAH

HAH

It was only
for a short
time, but it
put me at
ease



Roy...
I'm glad
to have
met you.

BUMP

Eek!



Jack
...?



Mem...



My
beloved
Roy

By the time
you read this,
I will have
left the city.



I'm...

I'm praying
for your happiness,
from far
away
-Tō



But don't
worry.
Your wings
are still
white.



Maybe
you gave
yourself
to me
thinking I
would do
you black.



Jack...

Jack...

I'm not an
angel...!



Find yourself
a good job.
Killing isn't
for you.

Don't let
anything
bind you
and fly
free



There's still
time. Forget
everything.
Forget me, and
everything I
taught you



Let me
treat you.

Bourbon.



You have
pretty eyes.
How about
taking your
glasses off so
I can see you
better?

I don't
think so.



All
right?



I left the
church a
year after
surviving
from Jack.

I learned
about
guns on
my own.

I choose
to live by
forgetting
about her.



CLANG

Jack!!



Thanks.



Don't bother checking those guys out. They're just small fries.



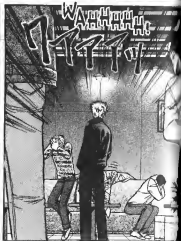
Do you wear them to bed, too?



Forget it. I'm not here for you.



More importantly, you should...



Who wants to know? Ah ha... you're pretty cute.

Hmm?

Hey.

You Bill Kirby?





Afterthoughts

Ah, what will become of Japan's manga industry!? Let's wait and see! All we have to do is enjoy! It's manga, after all!



Kizuna W...The manga which has completely ignored the existence of women!

My home page BBS is a convenient little corner where I can receive messages from fans, friends, and acquaintances. Let me answer one of the questions that turned up this time.



My official Kodaka home page has been open since last year. Comics talk is like unintelligible gibberish to me, but lately I've been doing all right.

No offense, but I won't accept complaints about whether they seem right or not.



I thought I'd released them, but now that I think about it... they're not in the comics.



Who else could give me such advice?!



An Angel of Death gave me Hell with a gun and Heaven in a bed.

I won't forget you, Jack... even if you forget me.

My body bears the mark of a black angel...

I'll never forget.

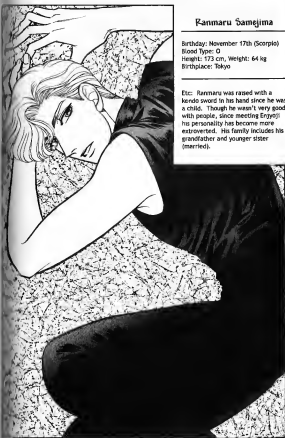




Kei Enryoji

Birthday: February 27th (Pisces)
 Blood Type: A
 Height: 178 cm, Weight: 65
 Birthplace: Kyoto

Etc. Actually the eldest son of Yagami, but continues to use Enryoji even after his mother's death. He is introverted and has many friends. An optimist. Though well liked by women, he's devoted to Ranmaru. His family includes his father and younger half brother (Kei).



Ranmaru Samejima

Birthday: November 17th (Scorpio)
 Blood Type: O
 Height: 173 cm, Weight: 64 kg
 Birthplace: Tokyo

Etc. Ranmaru was raised with a kendo sword in his hand since he was a child. Though he wasn't very good with people, since meeting Enryoji his personality has become more extroverted. His family includes his grandfather and younger sister (married).



Masanori Araki

Birthday: August 2nd (Leo)
 Blood Type: O
 Height: 186, Weight: 84 kg
 Birthplace: Osaka

Etc.: Masanori has been taken care of by the Sagano family since his teens. Presently he works directly under the organization's head as an aid in charge. In the past he harbored secret feelings for Kai's mother.



Kai Sagano

Birthday: March 17th (Pisces)
 Blood Type: A
 Height: 167, Weight: 50 kg
 Birthplace: Osaka

Etc.: Born to a Yakuza family, after his mother's death he was spoiled being raised by Masanori and the organization. He adores Masanori more than his own father. His family includes his father, and his older half brother (Kai).



Interview with Kazuma Kodaka

During a recent visit to New York City to celebrate the release of *Kizuna Bonds of Love*, Ms. Kazuma Kodaka made a rare public appearance at the Rockefeller Center Kinokuniya Bookstore to meet her fans and autograph copies of her best-selling Yaoi manga. In the conclusion of this three part interview, Ms. Kodaka gives her impression of American Yaoi fans.

BE BEAUTIFUL: Your recent visit to the States included a personal appearance at the New York Japan Society's screening and panel discussion of the *Kizuna* anime. What was your impression of the event?

KAZUMA KODAKA: I was unsure how it would go, at first. Someone had told me that the Japan Society was an organization for high-class cultural exchanges between Japan and the United States, that it was such a formal and stern place, and that I would have to behave accordingly. So I was very nervous, but the entire event was much more casual than I expected. I felt relaxed because the audience was relaxed, and they were very active participants in the discussion.

At the screening, I was surprised by what scenes they chose to laugh at in Japan. It's more difficult to gauge how



(STAFF) M • HIGANO N • KUSANAGI Y • HAYASE K • MIYASHITA
K • KODAKA

— STUDIO K2 —



behavior has calmed down now. I hope I have been drawing Yaoi manga for many years, and many of my readers who were in college when I started Yaoi have become housewives. They got married, had children, and matured to the point where they are mild and calm. On the other hand, new Yaoi fans are emerging in the United States. I felt the heated atmosphere of the fans here. Again, maybe that's due to the fact that the Japanese Yaoi fans tend to be older.

BE BEAUTIFUL: What would you say to the American Kazuma Kodaka fans?

KODAKA: I will keep drawing Yaoi manga as long as possible. So, please be my longtime fans! Some of my Japanese fans have been enjoying my Yaoi manga for ten years. I hope you will all remain as my fans for decades to come.



EN

the audience feels because they usually watch very quietly, really concentrating on the movie. Sometimes it almost feels as if you don't watch seriously, you must get out of the theater. But this time, people laughed, cheered, and clapped their hands whenever they felt like it. It was fun! Their reaction was fresh to me. It was a little embarrassing, but I was glad to see their response.

BE BEAUTIFUL: You were also a Guest of Honor at the Kizuna autograph session at the Kinokuniya bookstore in Rockefeller Center. What are your recollections of that event?

KODAKA: It was wonderful! The autograph session was held in Kinokuniya, a bookstore that specializes in Japanese books. I felt like I was back in Japan, except there were many more American people waiting in line, so I wasn't nervous at all. I met some very hard-core fans, though I'd say there are no significant differences between Japanese fans and American fans. In fact, their responses were surprisingly similar. Maybe the age group for Yaoi fans is a little different in the United States. In Japan, it's not unusual for middle aged women to attend my autograph sessions.

BE BEAUTIFUL: What are the key differences between American Yaoi fans and Japanese Yaoi fans?

KODAKA: I see no difference. In Japan, there used to be extremely enthusiastic fans, some of them were almost stalkers, but not so much, anymore. That

